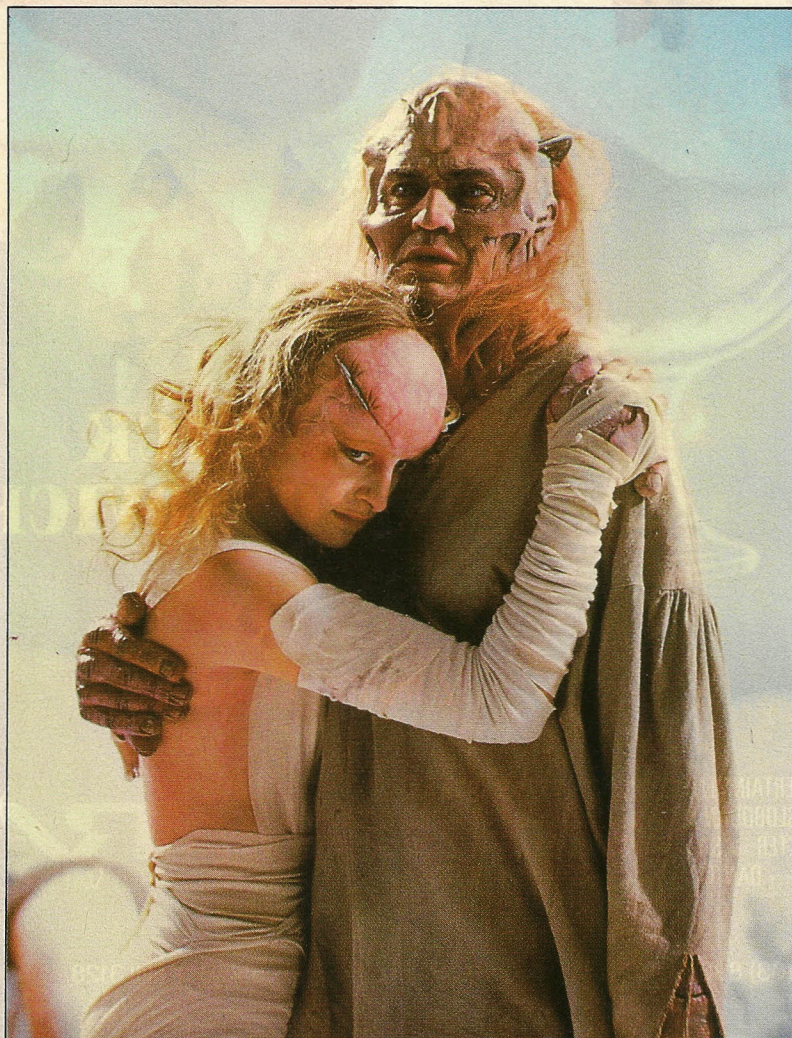




FRANKENSTEIN UNBOUND

*Roger Corman makes his directorial comeback
with a fresh look at the Frankenstein story.
Lyn Jones reports*



These days, names such as Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, Joe Dante, Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson and Dennis Hopper are counted among the greats in cinema.

But strangely, all these current-day greats had their beginnings in the same small studio. It was the studio of B-grade film maestro Roger Corman - possibly the only director/producer who could write a book titled *How I Made A Hundred Movies In Hollywood And Never Lost A Dime* and would not be telling a lie.

Now, for the first time in twenty years, Corman has once again stepped behind the camera - this time to produce a film version of Brian W. Adliss' science fiction novel, *Frankenstein Unbound*.

"The title *Frankenstein Unbound* means to a certain extent an opening up, an unfolding. The concept being that once you have unbound Frankenstein, you can never bind him again. He is free. Once the monster is created, you cannot uncreate the monster.

"I liked the original concept of Brian's in which a man from the 21st century goes back to the 19th Century but finds that it's a somewhat distorted 19th Century. Mary Shelley, the creator of *Frankenstein* co-exists in this world with Dr Frankenstein - both the creator and the creation exist at the same time.

Although based on the Adliss novel, Corman's version changed a few elements of the story.

"We changed the script," he said, "into a detective story, replaced the novel's first person narrative with the speaking car and turned Adliss' time-travelling diplomat into a scientist to draw parallels between the different experimental generations.

"Creating life and playing God is the moral core and the religious overtones were unavoidable because reading Shelley's [Mary Shelley, writer of *Frankenstein*] book again I was struck by how insightful it was - and I'm a lapsed Catholic."